



# The Blurb



Volume 51 Number 1

Public Service Since 1949

January 2001

# Happy 2001 to All



## Fourth Annual Auction — January 10

The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

**Amateur Radio License Examinations** are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—registration finishes at 6 p.m. doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.phil-mont.org>

**E-mail:** [info@phil-mont.org](mailto:info@phil-mont.org)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz p/l 91.5

**70-cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3AA** - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I; Manager: W3STW

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate.

**W3AA** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: [w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**W3AA** e-mail: [w3aa@phil-mont.org](mailto:w3aa@phil-mont.org)

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** W3AOK, William H. Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Phila., Pa 19128;

215-487-9472

[billpopovic@msn.com](mailto:billpopovic@msn.com) — [n3fvi@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:n3fvi@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** W3WF, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Rd., Pottstown, Pa 19464; 610-323-1050

**SECRETARY:** N3PVO, Carol L Sebzda, 761 North Hills Ave., Ardsley, PA 19038; 215-884-5518

[n3pvo@aol.com](mailto:n3pvo@aol.com)

**TREASURER:** K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Drexer, PA 19025; 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com) packet: K2BN@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

## DIRECTORS

WU3I (00); W3RM (00); KB3IV (00); W3STW (01); W3BBB (01); N3MT (01); N3XKE (A)

## COMMITTEES

**Archives:** W3IIN; **Audit:** KE3OP; **Awards:** W3WF; **Blurb folding:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH; **Budget:** K3KUD; **Directory:** WB3KOJ & W3IIM; **DX:** Open ; **Education:** W3CH; **Emerg.Coor.:** N3XKE; **Field Day:** WU3I; **Internet:** W3IIM; **Membership:** W3LEN & KE3ZY; **Net Control:** KB3IV; **Publicity:** W3RM **Program:** W3WF; **Public Service:** W3WF; **Refreshments:** W3AOK; **Repeater:** W3BBB; **Skywarn:** WX3PHI; **Special Events:** open; **Sunshine:** WU3I; **Youth:** KE3ZY; **TVI:** W3VVS; **VE Program:** ND3Q; **W3AA Trustee:** WU3I; **W3AA Station Manager:** W3STW; **Welcome:** K3CJ.

## Blurb STAFF

**Editor:** Dean M. Spare, N3TAL

903 Woodhollow Drive, Marlton, New Jersey 08053

[deanspare@yahoo.com](mailto:deanspare@yahoo.com)

856-810-8451

**Artist:** N3QIE (514th issue)

**Labels and mailing:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH send address and directory changes to [wb3koj@comcat.com](mailto:wb3koj@comcat.com)

**Deadline:** To be assured of publication in the month that you want, all copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

## Net Schedule

**Tuesday CW Practice Net at 20:00— 147.030MHz FM (NOT DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST)**

**Sunday morning 2 Meter Net at 09:30 — 147.030 Mhz FM**

**Sunday morning “10-on-10” Net at 10:00 — 28.393 Mhz SSB (+ or - for QRM)**

**Sunday morning 75 meter Net at 10:20 — 3.993 MHzSSB**

# Minutes

*Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary*



## December Director's Meeting Minutes

Bill (W3AOK) opened the December Directors' Meeting at 8:19 p.m. The following Officers and members were in attendance: Bill (W3AOK), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV), Jim (W3BBB), Gene (N3XKE), Rick (N3DHI), Ted (KB3CYE) and Bill (W3GQD). The following reports were made:

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) we have enough money in the bank for everything. We had no receipts for the month.

**JACKETS** - Ed (KB3IV) reported the jackets should be ready for delivery at the January meeting.

**JANUARY AUCTION** - Dick (W3RM) reported information has been sent out to QST and to all of the local radio clubs advertising the January auction. The auction should also be announced on the Sunday morning Nets.

**ELECTION** - Jim (W3BBB) reported, as the Judge of Election, everything was set for the elections. Only the names of those running for the Board of Director positions would appear on the ballot.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) reported a bill had been run up for the use of the copy machine over the past three months. The account number has since been changed and Steve is the only one with the new account number. A notice has been posted for the volunteers to notify Steve, in advance, if copies are needed. Steve reported the Kenwood 950 radio had a distortion problem. He took it out of the console and put it back in and the problem went away. Steve also reported the PSK logbook indicated contacts made at 100 watts. The radio in that position cannot handle that amount of continuous duty. A notice has been posted at the position indicating the proper use of the radio. The Kenwood 570 is still out for repair. The BBS computer is still waiting to be programmed.

**MEMBERSHIP** - We had one applicant for membership, Nick Sparozic (AA3WA). A motion was made and approved to accept Nick into membership.

**PROGRAMS** - Ed (KB3IV) is asking for ideas on programs, the membership would like, for the upcoming year.

**BUDGET** - Mike (K2BN) agreed to put together a budget for the upcoming year ready for approval at the next Board Meeting.

**DUES** - The 2001 dues statements should have been in the December Blurb. Dues for the upcoming year are due and statements will be sent in the January Blurb.

Having no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:26 p.m. Thanks to Ed (KB3IV) and Sharon (N3GLU) for hosting the Directors' Meeting.

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## Minutes December General Meeting

Bill (W3AOK) called the 602nd General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to order at 7:59 p.m. The following reports were given:

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) reported the station has a new 6-meter radio thanks to a donation by Rollin (W3PWG).

**VE PROGRAM** - Steve (WU3I) reported since 1985 we have had 2717 people take tests, with about a 50% passing rate. We had extremely high passing rates in the second half of the year. In November we had a 100% passing rate for the first time with 2 paper upgrades and 2 test upgrades. New testing fees will be in place for the January testing session.

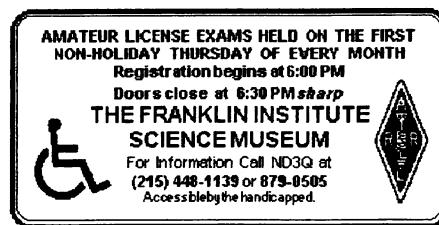
**REPEATER** - Jim (W3BBB) stated, "If it works don't fix it"!

**NET CONTROL** - Ed (KB3IV) reported the Code Practice Net would change to Thursday night starting in January.

Having no further business, the General Meeting was closed at 8:09 p.m. and turned over to Jim (W3BBB) the Judge of Elections. The Election result tally, for Board of Director, was as follows: Steve (WU3I) 34 votes, Dick (W3RM) 35 votes, Charlie (W3WF) 15 votes and Gene (N3XKE) 27 votes.

## Editor's Note:

Carol, N3PVO has graciously served as Secretary this year when no one else could. This is her last assignment. Starting in 2001 Fred, WA3KIO will be reporting. Carol, thanks for all your help. You have made my job much easier, because of your skills. Thank you.



## 184th Monthly Phil-Mont VE Test Session Statistics for November, 2000

FOUR (4) candidates took two (2) elements. We had one (1) new amateur with three (3) upgrades.

The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads (ND3Q).  
Members are: Jim McCloskey, NS3K; Jeff Kerber, N3VE.

### Exam Dates for the year 2000:

Dec. 7.

Exams for 2001: JAN. 4.; Feb. 1; March 1.

## VE Examination Sites

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must show two other types of ID. Bring the original, and a copy of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 2000 test fee is \$6.65.

### THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Monthly, 1st Thursday — Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q. 215-879-0505, day. 215-448-1139 24-hours. Doors open at 6PM and close sharply at 6:30 PM.

### BELLMAWR, NEW JERSEY

Diane Nafis, 609-227-6281. Testing is the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. They meet at the Bellmawr Municipal Complex, Browning Rd. and Lewis Ave., one block off Black Horse Pike, Route 168.

### BRISTOL, PA

George LeNoir, 215-943-4886

## AO-40 still silent

**A**MSAT OSCAR-40 remains silent, and command stations on the ground still have been unable to reestablish contact with the Amateur Radio satellite. It had been hoped that an onboard computer timeout expected on or about December 16 would restart the beacon telemetry and give the ground crew some clues as to why AO-40 suddenly stopped transmitting on December 13.

AMSAT-Germany's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of the AO-40 team, said nothing was heard over the weekend, and command stations tried to re-establish communication by sending blind commands. If the reset had occurred, the satellite would have been restored to its post-launch configuration and attempt to transmit on 70 cm. However, the 70-cm transmitter has been problematic, and the satellite likely still would need to be reconfigured for 2-meter transmission at that point to be heard on Earth.

### LEVITTOWN, PA

David L. Heller, 2125-946-1040

### LINWOOD, PA (Commercial and Amateur)

### TELFORD, PA

Joseph Burgess, 215-723-6697

### WARMINSTER, PA

Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ, 215-343-3494

### WILMINGTON, DE

Giselle Wells, 302-478-2757

The AO-40 team is continuing to investigate reports of weak signals on the 2-meter downlink frequency of 145.898 MHz that seem to be coming from AO-40, but it has discounted reports of telemetry heard there as a hoax. Other reports persist of a weak, unmodulated carrier, however.

Guelzow said today that the AO-40 team is encouraged by a report from the North American Air Defense Command—NORAD. The report indicates that AO-40 was found to be in one piece, that the orbit was exactly where it should be, that the radar cross-section was as expected, and that no other pieces were found. Guelzow said the NORAD data counter rumors "which no one on the inner team believed" that AO-40 might have exploded.

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton said ground controllers were exploring several options. When and whether the satellite will be heard from again depends, in part, on whether AO-40 has picked up any of the "blind com-  
see AO-40 continued on page 8

**ATLANTIC DIVISION  
HAMFEST**

CALENDAR 2001

(as of 24 October 2000)

Jan 13 + Skyline ARC, Cortland, NY

Jan 28 + Maryland Mobileers ARC,  
Odenton, MDMar 31-1 Apr + Greater Baltimore  
Hamboree, Timonium, MD (MD  
State Convention)May 6 + Antietam Radio Asoc,  
Hagerstown, MDMay 6 + Warminster ARC, Wrightstown,  
PAJun 1-3 + Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic  
Division Convention, RARA,  
Rochester, NYJun 9+ Columbia-Montour ARC,  
Bloomsburg, PA (EPA Section  
Convention)Jul 1+ Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre  
(Dallas), PAJul 15+Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton,  
PAAug 12+ Lancaster ARC, Cheektowaga,  
NY (WNY Section Convention)Sep 29+ ARA of the Southern Tier,  
Horseheads, NY73-Bernie Fuller, N3EFN Director,  
Atlantic Division**Fourth Annual  
Auction**

The Fourth Annual Auction of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. will be held on January 10. Bring any and everything you want to sell. The auction rules were published in the December Blurb. But here they are again.

1. P.M.R.C. will retain 10% of the sale price up to a max. of \$30.
2. All sellers will pay a \$2 sellers fee to P.M.R.C.
3. Sellers must supply a thorough description of each piece offered for sale on a separate form
4. All sales are between the seller and buyer, not P.M.R.C.
5. P.M.R.C. will be held harmless in all transactions between buyer and seller.

# The PREZ SEZ



**H**appy Holidays to all and may Santa bring you a nice new rig. My thanks to the Phil-Mont members who braved the wintry weather forecast for election night. Jim W3BBB kept the election process under control and no recount was required (perhaps we could get him a consultant job in Florida). Even the overhead projector cooperated at the club election night this year.

I want to thank the outgoing officers for a job well done last year. In this fast paced world it is difficult to find the time to donate to a hobby. Amateur Radio would be long gone if it were not for the volunteer spirit of hams. I want to thank the new group of elected officers for continuing this volunteer spirit and in a small way, preserving Amateur Radio.

Even though it is a year away, please think about running for an office next year. If this hobby has brought you some enjoyment, please think about giving something back. Here in the U.S., the Amateur Radio Service is chartered to serve the public and is, to a large extent, why the public grants us access to spectrum that would otherwise be auctioned to the highest bidder. This public service requirement does not necessarily apply to the Amateur service in other countries where Amateur Radio may be viewed as a hobby only. However, here in the U.S., the public service aspects (and those are interpreted very broadly in terms of emergency and public service communications, fostering technical advancement, education, and goodwill) are used as our justification for access to valuable radio spectrum. Long Live Amateur Radio, get out there and make a difference!



**Irma Volen, wife of Sol Volen, N3UBY passed away  
on Thursday November 28, 2000**

W

Trustee: Steve Hoch, WU3I

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science  
Museum

3

**A**n eventful month and the first year of a new century (depending how you look at it) is now behind us and we must look forward. First, we remind everyone of the departure of Bobbie Dillon from the Museum Staff. Bobbie has moved to Annapolis, Maryland and we wish her well.

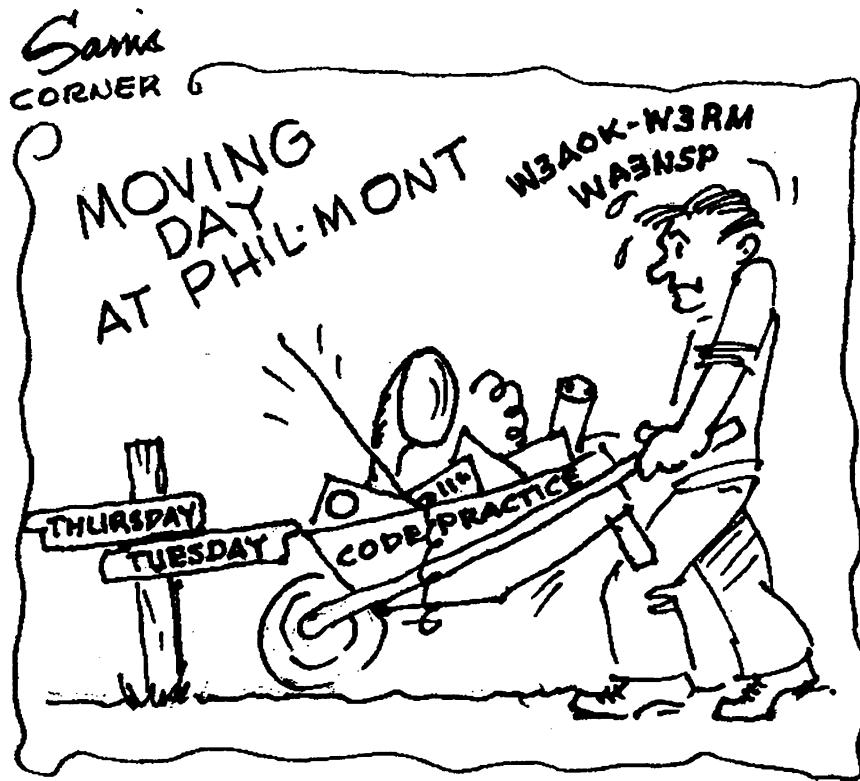
We are not aware of what the new year will bring to W3AA, but we have hopes of a **new Packet BBS some day soon** and the timely return of the Ten-Tec from Tennessee. Most of all we want the Kenwood 570 from California.

We are not sure what the new year will bring concerning the moving of our station in the Museum. 2002 will be a grand year for W3AA with the 50th Anniversary of our station in the Franklin Institute. I want to plan a month long special event marking the opening of the station in 1952.

I ask all operators to please read the notices on the console and posted in the back room indicating some changes in the operations and copier use.

Steve WU3I

A

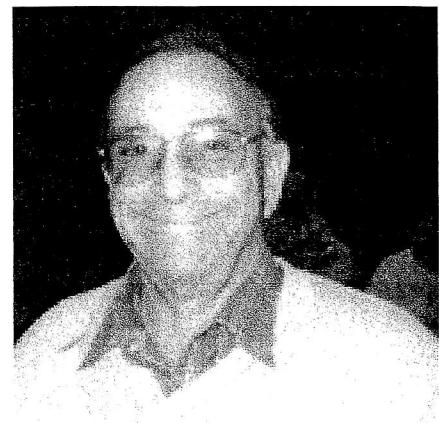


# 2000 Election Results

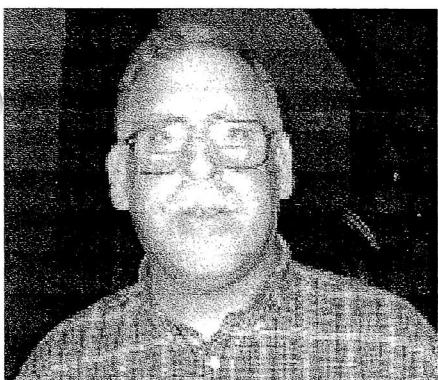
The elections weree held at the December, 2000 meeting.  
There were no recounts! Below are listed the winners.



Vice-President — Ed Masarsky,  
KB3IV



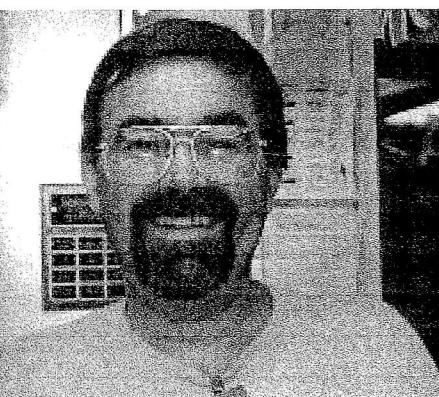
Treasurer — Mike Tannenbaum,  
K2BN



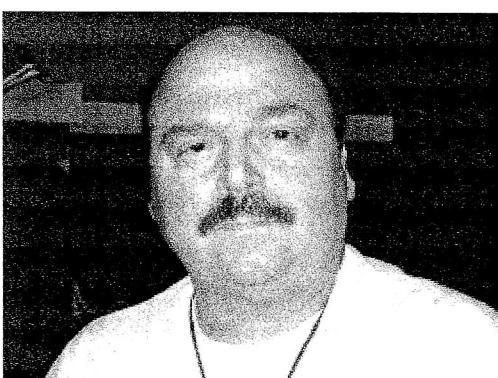
Secretary — Fred Rice, WA3KIO



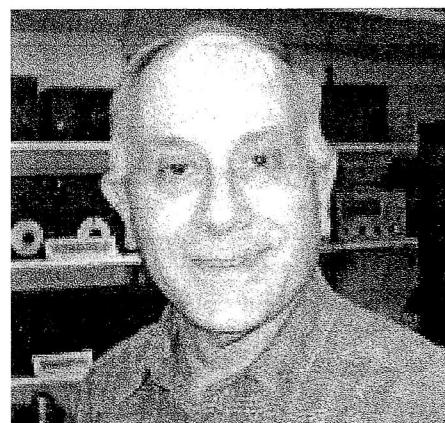
President — Bill Popovic, W3AOK



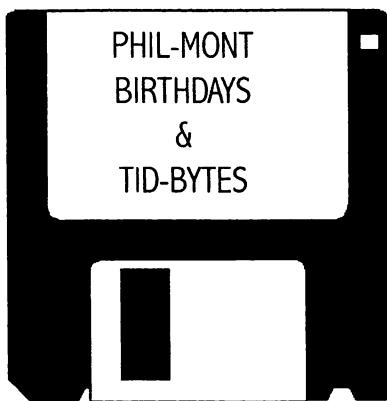
Director — Steve Hoch, WU3I



Director — Gene Di Nardi, N3XKE



Director — Richard Moll, W3RM

**MEMBERSHIP STATS**

147 Full paid members  
15 Family members  
4 Youth members (under 17)  
2 Honorary members  
1 Pending members

*AO-40 continued from page 4*

mands" sent by ground controllers. Guelzow says that if no commands were accepted by the IHU-1 onboard computer since contact was lost December 13, then a "command-assist" watchdog routine on December 21 will cycle the satellite through various receive, transmit, high-gain and low-gain antenna modes. If AO-40 did pick up some commands, Guelzow said, the command-assist watchdog will be reset for another 10 orbits. That could extend the wait until sometime after Christmas.

Guelzow says the "watchdogs" are software resets. Ground controllers want to avoid doing a hard re-boot of the main computer, which is considered a last resort. "There is no need to hurry, and the command team doesn't want to miss any option," he said. (ARRL)

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

03 Jon Verlin - KA3VVU  
05 Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)  
06 Holly Paulson - KA3MSJ  
08 Matthew Adair - N3YAQ  
13 Jon Balch - W3KG  
15 Denise Burstein - KB3ANO  
Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)  
16 Bill Sullivan - N3QMH  
17 Eileen Weigand (XYL AA3EP)  
18 Marion Bubeck (XYL K3GNM)  
19 Babs Clayton (XYL K3HIE)  
Bill Mescanti - K2LK  
22 Benji Jack - N3VYA  
23 Dean Spare - N3TAL  
25 Ronald Johnson - N3ZO  
27 Andrew Roomberg - KB3CWH\*  
28 Bob Schmilewske - K3KUD  
30 Bill Kane - N3OOL  
31 Fred Reichert - KA3BET  
\*Indicates New Member - 1999

**DIRECTORY UPDATE** With this BLURB you received your 2001 Dues Invoice & Directory Information Sheet. Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional Franklin Institute Donation to: MIKE TANNENBAUM -K2BN - 545 Cardinal Drive - Dresher PA 19025...Your early reply will save the club additional funds and will speed-up the publishing of the 2001 P.M.R.C. Directory.

**CALL CHANGE** GWEN, KB3DVJ, IS NOW KNOWN AS NG3P. 2001 LICENSE EXPIRATIONS APRIL-N3FSC, N3JHR JUNE-KB3DXS AUG.-N3VLC, N3KGG SEPT.-WB3GBN,WU3I,W3VVD OCT.-N3CB,KA3VVS DEC.-WX3PHI  
**MEMBERSHIP STATS** Will resume in March

**PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS**

Charlie Weigand, W3WF

Phone 610-323-1050

Packet: aa3p@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

E-mail: aa3ep@aol.com

Russ Stafford, W3CH

Phone: (610)631-3401 ext. 902

Packet: w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**Public Service Forms Available**

Public Service Forms are available on Line. Thanks to **Charlie, W3WF** and **Peter, KB3DFQ** you may download any of the following sign-up forms for the year 2000 public service events.

MS Walks

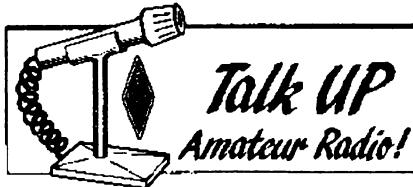
Chester County Bike Tour

MS 150 City to Shore 2000

the url is:

<http://metro-comm.freethinkers.net>

(thanks to W3CH)

**Membership Applications**

**Call:** AA3WA

**Name:** Nick Sparozic

**Class:** E

**Address:** 631 Wanamaker Dr.  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

**Occupation:** retired

**Home Phone:** 215-887-1809

**Bus. Phone:**

**E-mail:**

**Packet:**

**Committees:** VE, Program, W3AA

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Calendar for January 2001

December — Named for the Latin word for “tenth” since that was originally the tenth month of the Roman calendar.

1	<u>Mon</u>	New Year's Day
2	<u>Tues</u>	
3	<u>Wed</u>	Board meeting at the home of WU3I
4	<u>Thur</u>	VE exams - doors close at 6:30 PM
5	<u>Fri</u>	Code practice 8PM-W3STW
6	<u>Sat</u>	
7	<u>Sun</u>	(2M net -WB3KOJ) (75M net- W3PWG) (10M net-W3AA)
8	<u>Mon</u>	
9	<u>Tues</u>	Full Moon
10	<u>Wed</u>	General meeting at the Franklin Institute, refreshments at 7, meeting starts 7:30
11	<u>Thur</u>	Code practice 8PM-W3RM
12	<u>Fri</u>	
13	<u>Sat</u>	
14	<u>Sun</u>	(2M net-KB3IV) (75M net-NG3P) (10M net - W3AA)
15	<u>Mon</u>	Martin Luther Kings Jr.'s Birthday
16	<u>Tues</u>	
17	<u>Wed</u>	
18	<u>Thur</u>	Code Practice 8PM-WA3NSP
19	<u>Fri</u>	
20	<u>Sat</u>	
21	<u>Sun</u>	(2M net -N3FTY) (75M net - WA3KIO) (10M net - W3AA)
22	<u>Mon</u>	
23	<u>Tues</u>	
24	<u>Wed</u>	New Moon
25	<u>Thur</u>	Code practice 8PM- W3AOK
26	<u>Fri</u>	
27	<u>Sat</u>	
28	<u>Sun</u>	(2M net - WA3NFP) (75M net- KB3IV) (10M net- W3AA)
29	<u>Mon</u>	
30	<u>Tues</u>	
31	<u>Wed</u>	

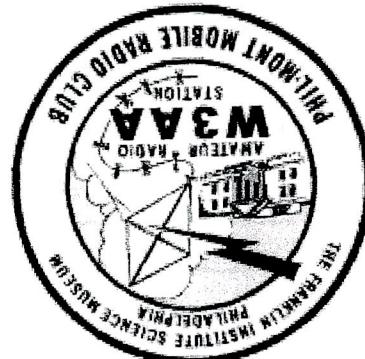
# Activities January 2001

Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the Net

- **Jan 3-Board meeting at WU3I** - VE testing will be held on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. The 2000 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.65.
- **Jan. 4-** VE session at the Franklin institute
- **Jan. 10** - General Meeting at the Franklin Institute. The topic will be the **4th Annual Auction**

**“DON’T TAILGATE... WAIT”**—for the courtesy 

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
C/O 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114  
A Publication of

**The Blue**

